

Prix Ars Electronica
The ChubbChubbs

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NTSC VHS tape

"The ChubbChubbs" is the first animated all-CG short to be produced by Sony Pictures Imageworks. Directed by Eric Armstrong, the animation supervisor for both "Stuart Little" and "Stuart Little 2," "The ChubbChubbs" introduces the alien inhabitants of the Planet Glorf: Meeper, its earnest but awkward hero, a singing Diva, the huge and menacing Zyzaks and the ChubbChubbs. In this debut short, Meeper valiantly tries to warn the patrons of the Ale-E-Inn, an intergalactic watering hole with its own constellation of stars, of impending danger only to find himself face to face with the toughest creatures in the universe.

The project was originally conceived as a test of Imageworks' workflow process. The company invited its artists and animators to invent a story and create the animation in the same production pipeline as Imageworks' feature film visual effects work. A small group of Imageworks artists were dedicated exclusively to this project, while the rest of the large production team worked on the short when they had a break from other duties.

Imageworks created the animation and lighting in Alias|Wavefront Maya; compositing was done with Imageworks' proprietary tool and rendering was done in Renderman. The tornado-like storm was achieved with a particle-based tool in Side Effects Houdini.